

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIGS. 6a and 6c. This sheet, which includes FIGS. 6a-6c, replaces the original sheet including FIG. 6a-6c.

FIG. 6a has been amended to change numerals 601 to 602 and 602 to 601.

FIG. 6c has been amended to change numerals 601 to 602 and 602 to 601.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet, and

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed on September 27, 2004 and Advisory Action mailed on December 7, 2004 have been carefully reviewed and considered. Claims 60-78 are previously pending and Claims 60, 62, 65-66, 70-74, 77 and 78 stand rejected.

In the forgoing Amendments, Claims 60, 63-67, 70, 73 and 75 have been amended. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification and claims of the application as filed. No new matter has been added. Claims 61-62, 69 and 76-78 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 60, 63-68 and 70-75 remain pending in this application. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the foregoing Amendments and reconsideration of the present application in light of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating in the Final Office Action regarding the allowable subject matter of Claims 61, 63-64, 67-68, 69, 75 and 76 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, Claims 63-64 and 67 have been amended to explicitly incorporate all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims, and therefore are in the condition for allowance.

Drawing(s)

FIGS. 6a and 6c have been amended to reverse the numerals 601 and 602 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 Rejections

Claims 60, 62, 65, 66, 72, 73, 74, 76, 77 and 78 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Jones¹ (“Jones”). Claims 60, 65, 70, 71, 73, 74, 77 and 78 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Harvill² (“Harvill”) in view of Jones. Without admitting that Jones and Harvill are prior art and reserving the right to establish that they are not prior art, Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections.

To expedite the allowance of the presently claimed invention, Applicant has amended Claims 60 and 73 in accordance with the Examiner’s suggestion. Claim 60 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 61, which was indicated as allowable. Claim 63, which was indicated as being allowable, has been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of claim 60 (prior to the current amendment) and intervening claim 62. Claim 64, which was indicated as being allowable, has been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of claim 60 (prior to the current amendment) and intervening claim 62. Claim 67, which was indicated as being allowable, has been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of claim 60 (prior to the current amendment) and intervening claim 66. Claim 73 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 76, which was indicated as allowable. Claim 75 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 73 (prior to the current amendment) and intervening claim 74.

Accordingly, independent claims 60, 63, 64, 67, 73 and 75 are allowable over the cited references. Based at least on their dependence upon independent claims 60, 64, 67 and 73, dependent claims 65, 66, 68, 72 and 74 are also allowable. Applicant has amended the claims to advance prosecution of this application and to not acquiesce to the rejections presented in the

¹ U.S. Patent No. 3,263,824.

² U.S. Patent No. 5,986,643.

Final Office Action. Applicant reserves the right to pursue claims of the same or different scope in continuing applications.

Conclusion

Based on all of the above, Applicant believes all claims now pending in the present application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

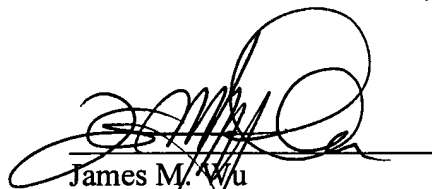
A petition for extension of time for three (3) months and fees for filing a RCE are enclosed. No additional fees are believed to be due at this time. However, please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully examining the present application and if a telephone conference would facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Jim Wu at (408)282-1885.

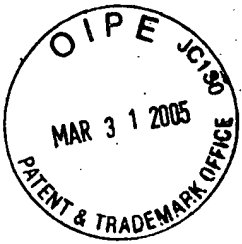
Respectfully submitted,

THELEN REID & PRIEST, LLP

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Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

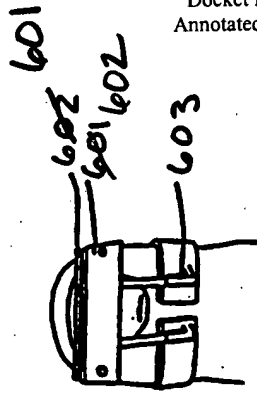


FIG. 6C



FIG. 6B

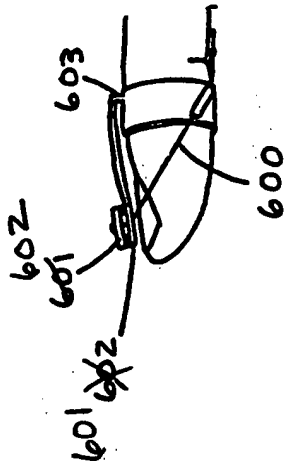


FIG. 6A